

Minutes of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Ornithological Union

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union was held at Omaha, Nebraska, Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, 1916. The annual banquet took place on May 5 at the Castle Hotel at 6:30 p. m., with over fifty members and their guests present. After the banquet a short business session was held, with President R. W. Dawson in the chair. The reports of the officers were received, and an Auditing Committee and a Nominating Committee were appointed, the former committee consisting of Miss Joy Higgins and Mrs. A. E. Sheldon, and the latter committee of Professor Lawrence Bruner and Miss Jeanette McDonald. Four new members were elected, namely, Miss Mary E. Foster, of Union; Mrs. Chas. W. McCaskill, of University Place; Miss E. Ruth Pyrtle and Mr. C. E. Mickel, of Lincoln. Miss Alice Hitte, a former member, who resigned in 1912, was, at her request, also reinstated to membership in the society, bringing the present total membership to forty.

The business session adjourned at 8:00 p. m. to allow the members to meet a few minutes later in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, where the public program of the evening was given before a large and interested audience. The program follows:

President's Address (illustrated)—A Review of Recent Studies of Bird Migration, Prof. R. W. Dawson, Lincoln.

Experiences with Teaching Bird Study to Small Children, Miss Laura M. Evans, Blue Springs.

The Fontenelle Forest Reserve—A Probable Future Bird Sanctuary, Dr. S. R. Towne, Omaha.

The Most Effective Methods of Protecting Birds, Mrs. G. A. Loveland, Lincoln.

After this program the reports of the Auditing and Nominating Committees were received. The following members were nominated and elected as officers for 1916:

President—Dr. R. H. Wolcott, Lincoln.

Vice-President—Miss Laura M. Evans, Blue Springs.

Secretary-Treasurer—Prof. M. H. Swenk, Lincoln.

Seventeen members were present at this session of the N. O. U., as follows: Mesdames W. F. Baxter, Joy Higgins, Alice Hitte, Jeanette McDonald, H. D. Neely, Elizabeth Rooney and Elizabeth Van Sant, and Mr. L. O. Horsky, of Omaha; Mesdames G. A. Loveland and A. E. Sheldon and Messrs. L. Bruner, R. W. Dawson, C. E. Mickel, M. H. Swenk and R. H. Wolcott, of Lincoln; Mrs. Lily

R. Button, of Fremont; Miss Laura M. Evans, of Blue Springs.
Adjournment at 10:30 p. m.

On Saturday, May 6, the fourteenth annual field day of the N. O. U. was held in the Fontenelle Forest near Child's Point, south of Omaha. This excursion was participated in by about seventy persons, including the members of the N. O. U. and Nebraska Audubon Society and their guests. Starts were made by two principal groups of observers at 7:00 and 8:00 a. m., each of these groups subdividing into smaller parties of about a dozen each, and all of the parties meeting for a picnic dinner at "Coffin Springs" at 1:00 p. m. The total list of the day included seventy-five birds, as follows:

Bluebird, Robin, Olive-backed Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Willow Thrush, Wood Thrush, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Long-tailed Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western House Wren, Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Redstart, Yellow-breasted Chat, Maryland Yellow-throat, Ovenbird, Cerulean Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Bell's Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Bank Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Scarlet Tanager, Dickcissel, Indigo Bunting, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cardinal, Towhee, Lincoln's Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Western Henslow's Sparrow, Goldfinch, Bronzed Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Cowbird, Crow, Blue Jay, Prairie Horned Lark, Least Flycatcher, Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Arkansas Kingbird, Kingbird, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Chimney Swift, Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Northern Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Belted Kingfisher, Barred Owl, Barn Owl, Broad-winged Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Western Mourning Dove, Solitary Sandpiper, and Blue-winged Teal. Nests were also found of the Robin, Western Field Sparrow, Crow, and Phoebe.

REPORT OF TREASURER, 1915-1916.

Receipts.

Cash on hand, May 7, 1915.....	\$ 95.43
Annual dues collected.....	114.00
Sale of Checklists.....	5.28

\$214.71

Expenditures.

Printing	\$ 23.00
Postage	3.33
Telephone25
Balance on hand, May 5, 1916.....	188.13
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	\$214.71

MYRON H. SWENK,

Secretary-Treasurer N. O. U.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

REICHENOW'S VOGEL, VOL. II.

(A Review.)

Having reviewed the first volume of this work in the pages of the Bulletin some time ago the reviewer had hoped to finish his task soon after that, but the second volume was held back in Liverpool, England, for more than a year, evidently as contraband or for fear it might contain a bomb or picric acid, or what not. But at last it has arrived and we are now able to finish the review. Since the essential points of Reichenow's classification have been disposed of in the previous review, there is no need to go over them again. The second volume begins with the second half of the fifth row Fibulatores, the Musophagidæ, Cuckoos, Woodpeckers, etc., and then takes up the last row the Arboricolæ, running from the Bucerotidæ to the Nightingale. Some of the families seem a little out of place in this system as it stands, for instance the Pycnonotidæ should certainly have been placed nearer to the Turdidæ than they are placed in the work.

The work at large fills a great want and has many points to commend it. The reviewer has tried to do justice to it in every way, although personally we prefer a phylogenetic system, and if there is anything better than that which Ridgway has produced we have failed to see it. And even then one is sometimes inclined to wonder whether some time in the future, as Dr. Gill suggested in the Osprey some years since, there will not be a system that will take a still different viewpoint and arrive at still different conclusions. For instance the Fringillidæ and Tanageridæ, both nine primaried conirostral birds are separated really only by relative points of difference—as are the Corvidæ and Paridæ,—while the Ploceidæ are certainly conirostral, as anyone may see who will place specimens of *Pyrenestes albifrons* and *Hesperiphona vespertina* side by side, but have 10 primaries, and again the Icteridæ are nineprimaried conirostral birds, which in